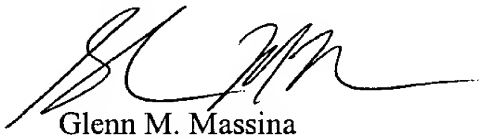
REMARKS

Applicant thanks the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 10 and 15 have been amended into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim any intervening claims.

It is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-14 are in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

If the examiner believes an interview, either telephonic or in person, will advance the prosecution of this matter, it is respectfully submitted that the examiner get in contact with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Glenn M. Massina
Reg. No. 40,081

Docket No.: 091395-9235 (4872-TC-AU)
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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

In the claims

Claims 1 and 10 are amended as indicated below.

1.(Amended) A thrust bearing assembly comprising:

two thrust races;

a plurality of rolling elements between and against the two thrust races, for supporting relative rotation of the thrust races about a common axis;

a spring washer axially outward of the two thrust races for engaging a support surface and for applying a preload to a first of the two thrust races; and

retention means for retaining the two thrust races, the rolling elements and the spring washer together as an assembly to facilitate handling and installation and wherein the two thrust races, the rolling elements and the spring washer are configured to have zero axial clearance within the retention means, prior to installation of the thrust bearing assembly, such that damage from vibration during handling is reduced.

10.(Amended) A thrust bearing assembly [according to claim 1,] comprising:

two thrust races;

a plurality of rolling elements between and against the two thrust races, for supporting relative rotation of the thrust races about a common axis;

a spring washer axially outward of the two thrust races for engaging a support surface and for applying a preload to a first of the two thrust races; and

retention means for retaining the two thrust races, the rolling elements and the spring washer together as an assembly to facilitate handling and installation and wherein a first of the

thrust races has an outer diameter smaller than the outer diameter of a second of the thrust races, to facilitate flow of lubricant, and wherein the first thrust race has an inner diameter smaller than the inner diameter of the second thrust race, to facilitate flow of lubricant.